



***Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
Tuesday, February 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes***

MTN Studios

125 SE Main Street, Minneapolis, MN

NCEC member attendees: Jeffrey Strand, Kirk Roggensack, Ishmael Israel, Maleta Kimmons, Eric Gustafson, Doron Clark, Debra Behrens, Kenya McKnight, Carol Pass, and David Zaffrann.

NCEC members Excused: Dobratz, Houle, Segovia and Wetjen

NCEC members Absent: Brittany Lewis

Commission staff: Howard Blin, David Rubedor, Ay'ianna Kennerly and Cheyenne Brodeen

Guests: Peter Rickmyer

1. Public Comment. Peter Rickmyer appeared to speak during public comment. He shared that he would like neighborhood organizations to have disability committees. He also requested that he would like the response letter from NCR regarding his grievance against the Jordan Area Community Council amended.

2. Introduction (Action):

- A.** Chair Israel called the meeting to order at 5:25 PM with a quorum of 10 commissioners present. Commission members gave brief updates of activities in their neighborhoods.
- B. Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of item 4F. Community Connections Conference and move Blueprint for Equitable Engagement to item 4G and add agenda item 8A. Strand Resolution. Roggensack moved to approve the agenda, Zaffrann Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

3. Executive Committee Reports (Informational and Action):

Chair's Report: Chair Israel welcomed the commission and passed the Chair to Commissioner McKnight at 5:30pm so he could attend his child's honor roll event.

Secretary Report:

- A. Minutes:** Strand moved approval of the January 2015 NCEC Commission Meeting Minutes with the correction of moving Roggensack to absent from present, Clark Seconds the motion, Motion Carried.
- B. Attendance Report:** Commissioner Strand shared that commissioners Dobratz, Houle, Segovia and Wetjen have excused absences.

4. Committee Task Force Reports: (Action)

A. Committee of the Whole.

Commissioner Strand reported that at the February 11th Committee of the Whole meeting the group reviewed the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement and the Strategic Planning session held in January.

B. One Minneapolis Fund Committee.

Blin reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) will be open through April 6, 2015.

C. City Department Engagement Task Force.

Clark reported that the Task Force will not meet in February, but will meet in March. Typically the Task Force meets in the 3rd Wednesday of the Month.

D. Community Innovation Fund Committee.

Zaffrann review the Community Innovation Fund timeline and requested that the commission approves the Request for Proposals. Once the Request for Proposals is approved they will move to the City Council for final approval. Strand asked if the committee chair was going to move the RFP document in order for the NCEC to approve it tonight in order to have NCR move the process for City Council review as next steps.

Motion: Zaffrann moves approval of the Community Innovation Fund Request for Proposal, Strand Seconds the motion. Motion Carried Unanimously.

E. City Council Charge.

Strand reported that he would like to see movement on what the committee has presented. Rubedor responded that he is seeking additional clarity from the Mayor and Council on the use of TIF Funds, however, the un-contracted fund balance can move forward.

F. Community Connections Conference.

Roggensack reported that the Community Connections nonConference is being held on March 21st at the Convention Center. This year's conference is going to be highly interactive and engaging. The NCEC commission should register and think about ways that they can be involved.

Motion: Strand moved that the NCEC sponsor a "Meet Up" session based on policy issues that are in the NCEC's scope for the 2015 Community Connections nonConference. Roggensack Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

G. Blueprint for Equitable Engagement.

Rubedor presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. Director Rubedor thanked Commissioners McKnight and Gustafson as well as Commissioner Lewis who participated intermittently from afar in assisting NCR with guiding the work on the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement. Rubedor highlighted three initial points: 1. moral imperative; 2. economic imperative; and 3. nobody will say it better than the community members themselves. Rubedor provided a definition, "Equity in community engagement is just and fair inclusion." Objectives will be put into a Gantt chart.

Comments:

- Pass stated that some neighborhoods might not be able to comply with the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement, some neighborhoods have significant diversity while others have none. It would be great to see data for each specific neighborhood.
- Zaffrann stated that it would be helpful to try not to poke holes in the data because we don't like what it says. We, the City as a whole has a lot of improvement. He also mentioned that the vision statement could be more proactive.
- Strand mentioned that his neighborhood organization increased the diversity on their board in the last election by 33%, but those increases were lost by nonparticipation of the new members. The key policy implication is that retention of members who increase the diversity of boards and commissions is significant as well as initial involvement for long-term sustainable change. Director Rubedor commented that the issue of retention is important and addressed in the plan.
- Roggensack asked what the comparison was for men and women. Rubedor responded that it was about 50/50.
- Gustafson mentioned that the City Department engagement is the undeveloped 3rd leg of the stool and that there doesn't seem to be buy in for the Core Principals of Community Engagement – there only seems to be a surface level of engagement.
- Behrens asked what the community engagement process for feedback would look like. Rubedor said that there would be a 45 day review period, information from the forum participants, neighborhoods, One Minneapolis Fund recipients and Boards and Commission members.
- McKnight commented that we need to be aware of how this will lead back to direct investment.

5. NRP Policy Board Report

NRP Policy Board Chair Strand reported that there was no February meeting. There will be a NRP Policy Board meeting in March. It will be held on Tuesday, March 17th at 5:00pm. The next meeting will be the 2015 organizational meeting and must be held to meet the requirement to meet at least quarterly. NCR Department has reported that there will be a Neighborhood Priority Plan to review and approve. The NCEC members are Behrens, Clark, Dobratz, and Strand.

6. NCR Report

Director Rubedor passed the time on to the next agenda item.

7. NCEC Strategic Plan

Blin stated that the NCEC convened to develop a strategic plan on Wednesday, January 21st. From that meeting there will be 4 goals that the NCEC will focus on: Neighborhood discussion, Strengthen NCEC logistics and write and use work plan, Equity in city department engagement and city wide engagement and Focus on policy development. It was noted that the NCEC will pick up the work at the next CoW meeting on March 11, 2015.

Behrens moves to approve the four goals/areas of focus for the NCEC from the strategic planning session, Gustafson Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

Comments:

- Gustafson asked if these four goals would be the work of the NCEC period. McKnight commented that this wouldn't eliminate the current work of the commission, but would direct work in the future.
- Clark said this helps the commission stop and think, "Does this fall into these categories?" when deciding what to work on.
- Gustafson said that the NCEC lacks capacity to do the work its currently doing, narrowing focus would be helpful.
- It was clarified that these four goals were contained in the NCEC CoW meeting minutes and the Strategic Plan document.

8. New Business

A. Strand Resolution

Commissioner Strand presented the following [resolution](#), with co-authors Gustafson and Pass. He is requesting that it be approved tonight or referred to the NCEC Committee of the Whole meeting.

Motion: Gustafson moved to approve the Strand Resolution, Behrens Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

B. Commissioner Open Forum

No comments.

Adjourn: Zaffrann moves to adjourn at 7:01pm, Strand Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.